

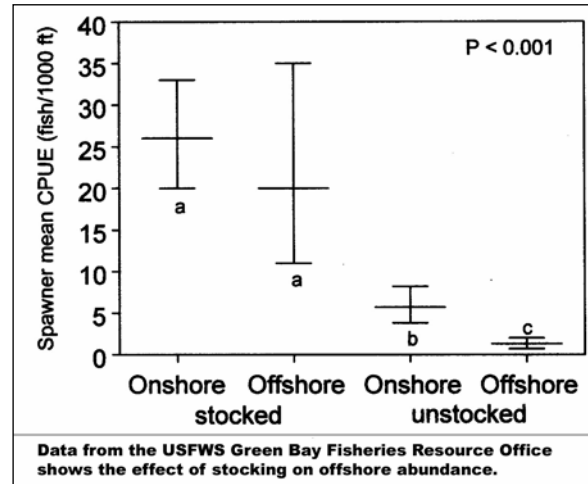


U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Lake Trout Restoration Program Offshore Stocking in Lakes Huron and Michigan



Lake Trout Restoration

Restoration of fishes in their native habitats is among the highest priorities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Toward this end, the Service has stocked more than 29 million yearling lake trout into lakes Huron and Michigan during the past nine years. Offshore stocking is the only method available to promote the colonization of historically productive offshore reefs by yearling lake trout (a strategy specified in multi-agency restoration plans for lakes Huron and Michigan). Mature lake trout now abundant on offshore reefs in lakes Huron and Michigan, especially those designated as refuges by fishery agencies, are the direct result of the offshore stocking capabilities of the M/V Togue (see graph to the right highlighting Lake Michigan data). Recent assessment data from Lake Huron has shown that this offshore stocking strategy provides an added benefit of higher survival.



Offshore Stocking

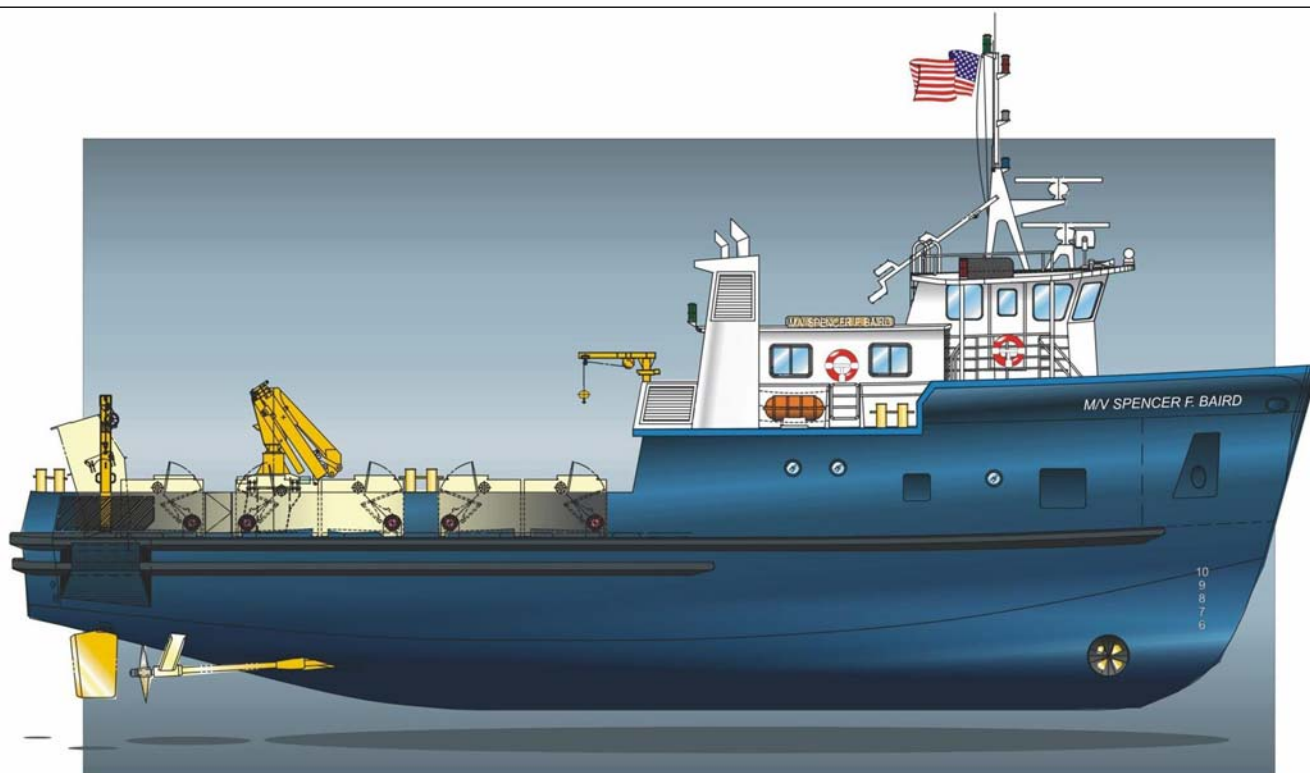
Offshore stocking operations typically begin in mid-April each year and continue through the end of June. In 2005, the Togue traveled 1,001 statute miles to 11 reefs in Lake Huron and 1,469 statute miles to 22 reefs in Lake Michigan between April 27 and July 3. The Togue is the only hatchery fish distribution vessel out of 63 science vessels operating on the Great Lakes. Use of the Togue has been limited since 2002 due to its poor condition and safety concerns.

Year	# Stocked	Reefs	Miles
1997	3,327,000	45	3,485
1998	3,581,500	51	3,035
1999	3,280,000	47	3,288
2000	3,369,700	46	2,850
2001	3,416,700	37	2,993
2002	2,898,334	35	2,702
2003	3,073,751	35	2,619
2004	3,072,917	30	2,489
2005	3,266,363	33	2,470

M/V Togue

The Togue was built in 1975 as a shrimp trawler and operated for 12 years in salt water before being confiscated in Florida by the U.S. Customs Service for carrying contraband. The Service acquired the Togue in 1989 and retrofitted it for stocking lake trout in the Great Lakes. The upcoming 2005 fish distribution season was the Togue's final season. To prepare it for 2005, a "haulout" (major maintenance) was done under drydock conditions at Basic Marine, Inc., of Escanaba, MI during the fall of 2004. Extensive repairs were done to the drive shaft.





The M/V Spencer F. Baird is scheduled to be operational for the 2006 fish distribution season.

M/V Spencer F. Baird

A replacement vessel for the Togue, the M/V Spencer F. Baird was designed by Timothy Graul Marine Design, and is currently under construction by Conrad Industries Inc., in Morgan City, LA. The Baird is expected to be operational in 2006. The Baird is needed to continue the successful offshore stocking program requested and supported by State, Tribal, and Federal fishery agencies. In addition to a stocking mission, the Baird will also be able to perform a stock assessment mission using either gill nets, bottom or midwater trawls, and scientific echosounder technology. The Baird's specifications are as follows:

Overall length:	95 ft.	Stocking method via gravity
Beam (width):	30 ft.	Icebreaking capabilities
Draft fully loaded:	9.5 ft.	Onboard oxygen concentrator system
Tonnage:	345 tons	Ballast tank capacity: 4,220 gallons
Cruising speed:	14.7 mph	30" gill net lifter
Twin 850 BHP diesel engines		Bottom and midwater trawling capability
Ten removable 1,000 gallon fish tanks		Scientific echosounding equipment
Fish capacity: 190,000 six-inch lake trout		Sleeping quarters for crew of eight
Dual ballast/chilled water system – can chill 3,490 gal water from 65-45° F in less than 10 hours		



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